

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In an environment including a set-top box associated with a television system, the set-top box being operative to receive instructions from a viewer via a remote control, the set-top box running a window-based display system, [[A]]a method for managing [[a]]the window-based display system, the method comprising,:

providing a plurality of windows, each of the windows being associated with an application, at least ~~someone~~ of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus;

assigning, to each one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus, a focus priority;

automatically, without the need to receive any instruction from the viewer, assigning focus to exactly one window at any time by choosing, from among the at least one of the plurality of windows able to accept focus, a window having a highest focus priority of the windows able to accept focus, so that requesting focus for one of the windows does not necessarily allow focus to be given to the one window requesting focus; and

designating the chosen window as an active window.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining an ordered list, in order of focus priority, of the at least one of the plurality of windows which is able to accept focus, giving preference within any one focus priority to one or more windows which have requested focus.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the assigning focus is performed by assigning focus based on the order of the ordered list.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

upon occurrence of an event which causes the active window to become non-active, performing the assigning focus to exactly one window, thus designating a new active window.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the event which causes the active window to become non-active comprises at least one of the following: closing of the active window; and the active window becoming hidden.

6. (Currently Amended) A set-top box system associated with a television system, the set-top box system comprising:

a window-based display sub-system for managing windows displayed on the television system, comprising the sub-system including:

a window display module to provide a plurality of windows, each of the windows being associated with an application, at least some of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus;

a priority assignment module to assign, to each one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus, a focus priority;

a focus assignment module to assign focus to exactly one window at any time by choosing, from among the at least one of the plurality of windows able to accept focus, a window having a highest focus priority of the

windows able to accept focus, so that requesting focus for one of the windows does not necessarily allow focus to be given to the one window requesting focus;
and

an active window designation module to designate the chosen window as an active window,

wherein the window display module, the priority assignment module, the focus assignment module and the active window designation module are operationally associated with each other.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 6, further comprising:
a list maintenance module to maintain an ordered list, in order of focus priority, of the at least one of the plurality of windows which is able to accept focus, giving preference within any one focus priority to one or more windows which have requested focus.

8. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 7, wherein the focus assignment module is operative to assign focus based on the order of the ordered list.

9. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein the focus assignment module is operative to assign focus to exactly one window upon occurrence of an event which causes the active window to become non-active.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the event which causes the active window to become non-active comprises at least one of

the following: closing of the active window; and the active window becoming hidden.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for managing windows in a window-based display system, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of windows, each of the windows being associated with an application, at least ~~someone~~ of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus;

assigning, to each one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus, a focus priority;

automatically, without the need to receive any instruction from the viewer, assigning focus to exactly one window at any time by choosing, from among the at least one of the plurality of windows able to accept focus, a window having a highest focus priority of the windows able to accept focus, so that requesting focus for one of the windows does not necessarily allow focus to be given to the one window requesting focus; and

designating the chosen window as an active window.

12. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 11, wherein the method further comprises maintaining an ordered list, in order of focus priority, of the at least one of the plurality of windows which is able to

accept focus, giving preference within any one focus priority to one or more windows which have requested focus.

13. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 12, wherein the assigning focus is performed by assigning focus based on the order of the ordered list.

14. (Previously presented) The computer program product according to claim 11, wherein the method further comprises, upon occurrence of an event which causes the active window to become non-active, performing the assigning focus to exactly one window, thus designating a new active window.

15. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the event which causes the active window to become non-active comprises at least one of the following: closing of the active window; and the active window becoming hidden.

16-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) A set-top box system associated with a television system, the set-top box system including a means~~window-based display system~~ for managing windows, comprising:

means for providing a plurality of windows, each of the windows being associated with an application, at least someone~~one~~ of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus;

means for assigning a focus priority to each one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus;

means for assigning focus to exactly one window at any time by choosing, from among the at least one of the plurality of windows able to accept focus, a window having a highest focus priority of the windows able to accept focus, so that requesting focus for one of the windows does not necessarily allow focus to be given to the one window requesting focus; and

means for designating the chosen window as an active window, wherein the means for providing a plurality of windows, the means for assigning a focus priority, the means for assigning focus and the means for designating are operationally associated with each other.